



## Correction of the type species of the South American genus *Gromphas* Brullé, 1837 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Phanaeini)

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Recently, we (Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello, 2013) presented a taxonomic revision of the dung beetle genus *Gromphas* Brullé, 1837 in which we recognized the validity of five species: *Gromphas aeruginosa* (Perty, 1830), *G. amazonica* Bates, 1870, *G. dichroa* Blanchard, 1846, *G. inermis* Harold, 1869, and *G. lemoinei* Waterhouse, 1891. In that work, we also confirmed that *Gromphas* was described by Brullé (1837) without any included species and that the widely cited name “*Gromphas lacordairei* Brullé” was never formally described or cited by Brullé and, in fact, all citations to this name refer to *G. lacordairii* Burmeister, 1874, a junior synonym of *G. inermis* Harold, 1869. Thus, the question of the identity of the type species of *Gromphas* remained open.

According Article 67.2.2 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), when a nominal genus was established before 1931 without included nominal species, “the nominal species that were first subsequently and expressly included in it are deemed to be the only originally included nominal species”. In Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello (2013) we believed that the first species included in *Gromphas* were those described by Blanchard (1846), *G. dichroa* and *G. lacordairei* (junior subjective synonym of *G. aeruginosa*). Therefore, we designated one of them, *G. dichroa*, as the type species of *Gromphas* (the date of publication of the Blanchard’s work follows Sherborn & Woodward (1901) and Evenhuis (1997), as we did in Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello (2013)).

We have since discovered that Blanchard’s species were not the first included in *Gromphas*. *Onitis aeruginosus* Perty, 1830 was transferred to *Gromphas* by Sturm (1843, p. 108) three years before publication of the descriptions of *G. dichroa* and *G. lacordairei*. In accordance with Articles 67.2.2 and 69.3 of the Code (ICZN, 1999), ***Onitis aeruginosus* Perty, 1830 is to be deemed as the only originally included nominal species in *Gromphas* and therefore must be regarded as the type species of the genus by subsequent monotypy.** Consequently, our designation of *G. dichroa* as the type species of *Gromphas* must be disregarded.

In Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello (2013), we considered that *O. aeruginosus* was first transferred to *Gromphas* by Harold (1859), who was unaware of Sturm’s action. It also appears that this action was unknown to Lacordaire (1856), who stated that *O. aeruginosus* needed to be transferred to a genus near *Gromphas*, as well as to the other authors that worked with the taxonomy of *Gromphas* (e.g., d’Olsoufieff (1924); Barattini & Sáenz (1960, 1964)). Even though Harold’s transfer was more clearly justified than Sturm’s, who merely listed *O. aeruginosus* in *Gromphas*, it is Sturm who should be regarded as the first to assign *O. aeruginosus* to *Gromphas*. The synonymy between *G. aeruginosa* and *G. lacordairei*, as we have stated before (Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello, 2013), was first proposed by Harold (1859).

This correction of the type species of *Gromphas* present here does not affect any other nomenclatural action introduced by Cupello & Vaz-de-Mello (2013).

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